

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 2556

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), AR

SUBJECT: SUBJECTS RAISED BY FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES

REF: A. BA 2445 AND B. BA 1907

1. AFTER INDICATING APRIL 23-25 TIME FRAME FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ARGENTINA PERFECTLY AGREEABLE TO GOA (SEE REFTTEL), VIGNES SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THAT VISIT WOULD BE A GREAT SUCCESS WITH THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE, AND THAT HE WAS CERTAIN SECRETARY KISSINGER SHARED HIS DESIRE TO ANNOUNCE SOME CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS DURING OR AT TERMINATION OF THE VISIT. IT WOULD, HE SAID, BE A GREAT THING FOR EXAMPLE IF SECRETARY KISSINGER COULD GIVE SOME INDICATION WHILE HE IS HERE OF FAVORABLE ATTITUDE OF USG WITH RESPECT TO THE 600 MILLION DOLLAR FINANCING PACKAGE WHICH ARGENTINA IS SEEKING IN THE US. I WAS SURPRISED THAT HE RAISED THE ISSUE BUT SAID I WOULD REPORT HIS SUGGESTION TO MY GOVERNMENT.

2. VIGNES THEN MENTIONED THE MALVINAS. HE SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT USG TO COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF ARGENTINE POSITION. THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR AND HE COULD WELL UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE WHY THE US COULD NOT DO SO. HOWEVER, ANY INDICATION OF SYMPATHY ON SECRETARY'S PART, HOWEVER ELLIPTICALLY WORDED, WOULD BE RECEIVED WITH TREMENDOUS ENTHUSIASM IN ARGENTINA. INDEED, IT WOULD IN ITSELF MAKE THE VISIT A WARM SUCCESS IN TERMS OF THE
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ARGENTINE PUBLIC. VIGNES SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARY

MIGHT EXPRESS IN GENERAL TERMS THE HOPE OF SEEING AN END TO COLONIALISM IN ALL ITS MANIFESTATIONS. THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE WOULD KNOW WHAT HE MEANT.

3. I SAID I COULD SEE SEVERAL POSSIBLE OBJECTIONS TO SUCH A STATEMENT, BUT THAT WE WOULD STUDY THE MATTER CAREFULLY AND SEE IF THERE WERE SOME SATISFACTORY WAY TO APPROACH THE PROBLEM. IT STRIKES ME THAT WE COULD GAIN A GREAT DEAL IN ARGENTINA WITHOUT COMPLICATING OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER FRIENDS BY USING THE FORMULA SET FORTH IN REF B. IN RESPONSE TO THE INEVITABLE QUESTION AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, SECRETARY COULD SIMPLY SAY THAT HE HOPED OUR TWO TRADITIONAL FRIENDS, ARGENTINA AND UK, COULD BROADEN AND CARRY TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TALKS AIMED AT SETTLING THEIR DISPUTE OVER THE MALVINAS. THIS WOULD NOT INDICATE SYMPATHY FOR EITHER SIDE, AND WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH US POLICY OF SUPPORTING SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, IT WOULD PLEASE ARGENTINE PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT.

4. VIGNES SAID THAT WHILE HE AND SECRETARY WOULD DOUBTLESS DISCUSS CUBAN PROBLEM AT LENGTH IN PRIVATE, HE DID NOT THINK ISSUE HAD TO BE REFERRED TO DIRECTLY IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO HIM PERSONALLY IF SECRETARY COULD REFER TO ARGENTINA'S ROLE IN RESOLVING ANOMALIES AND NORMALIZING RELATIONSHIPS IN HEMISPHERE. IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT SECRETARY MIGHT WISH TO MAKE SUCH REFERENCE IF HE DECIDES TO INFORM VIGNES THAT SANCTIONS IMPOSED UNDER 620(A)(3) HAVE BEEN LIFTED. WHETHER HE WOULD WISH TO CONNECT THE TWO THINGS PUBLICLY, OF COURSE, IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN.

5. FINALLY, VIGNES EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US COULD INDICATE INTEREST IN PARANA MEDIO PROJECT DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT. HE SAID HE HAD MENTIONED IT SOME WEEKS AGO BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT WOULD TICKLE THE SECRETARY'S IMAGINATION. I ASSURED HIM DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE OF THE MATTER.

6. IN CLOSING, VIGNES ASKED ME TO EXTEND HIS GREETINGS TO
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SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND TO ASSURE HIM THAT HE WISHED TO BE A HELPFUL PARTNER IN IMPROVING HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS. HE ALSO ASKED THAT I STRESS HOW MUCH HE AND MRS. VIGNES ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER.
HILL

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